



Rock Talk

The Official Newsletter of the Withlacoochee Rockhounds

President's Message



Musings, Updates, and More from Club President - Judith Birx

I hope everyone enjoyed the rocks last month!

Our next club meeting is on February 21st, 2021 at 1:00pm!

Following the CDC guidelines!

Yes, that means: Masks are worn before, after, and during the meeting!

It also means that we will be wearing them indoors and outdoors! We will be social distancing (6' apart).

Also Hand Sanitizer will be available!

Now, let's talk ROCKS!

Our meeting this month will be very similar to last month's. Outside and swapping rocks, selling our rocks, identifying rocks and minerals as well as fossils!

We will have our 50/50 and probably an assortment of additional rocks too raffle.

We did have a fair to moderate turnout last month, maybe because we are using safety precautions.

We are looking forward to March.

We are planning on trying to have an indoor meeting with the same guidelines used for the previous outdoor meeting.

The March meeting program will be presented by Mark Moore.

The program will be about Amber!

If you have Amber please bring it to the March meeting to show it off!

Also, the date will return to the normal, the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm (March 10th 2021).

Please keep in mind that this can change.

This Month's Roundup of Stories

- President's Message
- Secretary's Report
- Spinosaurus
- Jarosite from Mars

There will not be a jewelry class held by Withlacoochee Rockhounds, because I do not feel I can teach a proper class 6' away from you.

That said, I feel that the upcoming months may hold better opportunities for this class, so hang in there. I do have a personal class which is not supported by the Withlacoochee Rockhounds club, which follows the guidelines set forth by the senior center. I am not promoting this class and if you seek me out, I will provide more information on that and other clubs and classes held at the senior center.

Just so you know! There is no alcohol allowed on the premises of the senior center! This issue came up because the property might be available to rent in the future and members were wondering if this would be allowed, so the answer is NO!

I am so very happy to be meeting with you all! I missed you all!
I love your ROCKS! LOL!

Secretary's Report



Minutes and More from Club Secretary - Melodye Steverson

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting -

OUTDOORS

Date 1/31/2021

Minutes

Due to the pandemic, this meeting was held outdoors in the front "yard" of the clubhouse.

The meeting was called to order by President Judith Birx at 1:20pm.

We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silent prayer.

There were 2 new members to recognize: Janice Wojcik and Pam Gonzales.

There were 2 guests in attendance: Brian Parks and Paula Jackson.

Mark Moore made a motion to accept the minutes of our meeting as printed in the newsletter, seconded by Roberta Oldread. Passed by all members.

Treasurer Janet Wheeler gave the Treasurer's report. Mark Moore made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Seconded by Lynn Walker. Approved by all.

Old Business

President Birx announced that our club meetings will continue to be held outside until March, with all CDC guidelines being followed, until further notice.

New Business

Our Board of Directors made the determination that we will attempt a return to our normal schedule in March.

We will meet at our normal day and time, March 10th at 7pm inside the Senior Center.

We will be following all CDC guidelines for this gathering. Please visit www.cdc.gov for a list of guidelines.

This schedule is pending.

Firm plans will be announced by email.

March 2nd from 9-12 will be our first attempt at resuming our free Monthly Jewelry classes.

Again, this schedule is pending.

Firm plans will be announced by email.

Michael Steverson has updated the vendor forms for our Annual Gem Show which will be held on December 3 - 5, 2021.

Roberta Oldread is planning a Field Trip for March. As soon as the plan is finalized, she will make an announcement.

VP Mark Moore is preparing several Programs for our upcoming meetings. These include presentations on Amber, Anhydros, Fossil Jackets and How to prepare for a Disaster.

Our club is looking for ideas for a new logo / mascot.

If you have an idea, please present it to any Board member.

This is a contest and the winner will get..... a rock!

Mark Moore made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lynn Walker. Passed by all.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:43 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary, Melodye Steverson.

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Date 1/26/2021

Attending Board members; Judith Birx, Mark Moore, Melodye Steverson, Janet Wheeler, Ralph

Barber, Roberta Oldread, Ginny Steverson, and Michael Steverson.

Board meeting started at 6:45pm and was held via the Internet on Zoom.

Continued on page 7



Study sheds new light on the behaviour of the giant carnivorous dinosaur - the Spinosaurus

This article dovetails nicely with Mark Moore and Dave Letasi's videos on our YouTube channel.

Since its discovery in 1915, the biology and behavior of the enormous Spinosaurus has puzzled paleontologists worldwide. It was recently argued that the dinosaur was largely an aquatic predator, using its large tail to swim and actively pursue fish in the water.

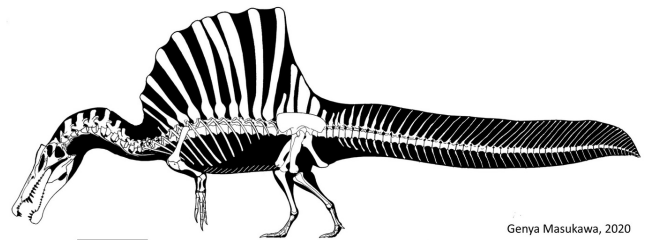


The new study, published today in *Palaeontologia Electronica*, challenges this recent view of Spinosaurus suggesting that whilst it likely fed from the water, and may have swum, it wasn't well adapted to the life of an aquatic pursuit predator. Instead it was like a giant (if flightless) heron or stork—snatching at fish from the shoreline while also taking any other small available prey on land or in water.

Co-author Tom Holtz, Principal Lecturer in Vertebrae Paleontology, University of Maryland, said: "Spinosaurus was a bizarre animal even by dinosaur standards, and unlike anything alive today, so trying to understand its ecology will always be difficult. We sought to use what evidence we have to best approximate its way of life.

This is an excerpted portion of the article.

[Read the entire article here at Phys.Org](#)



Genya Masukawa, 2020

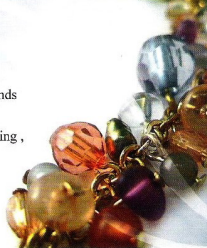
Originally found in Egypt, Spinosaurus is thought to be one of the largest carnivorous dinosaurs to exist probably reaching over 15 m in length.

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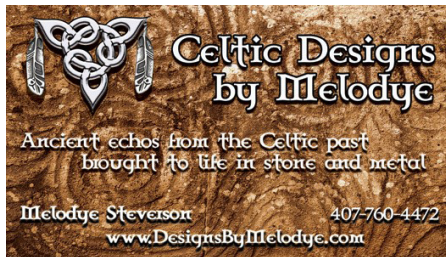
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KELLY JOHNSON

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...Yes I buy collections, lapidary equipment, etc...

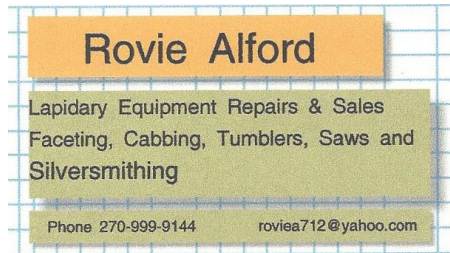
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Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

The cost for non-club members to advertise their businesses in
Rock Talk is \$10.00 per month.

Contact Michael Stevenson to set up an ad in both the newsletter and
the club website. It will benefit both
your business and our club.

If you ad has a web address, or Etsy shop address, I have linked to it.

Advertisers Are Needed

Please help us find advertisers for the Rock Talk and our website.

The monthly income from these ads is beneficial to the club.

Both the Rock Talk and our website have more exposure than only club members.

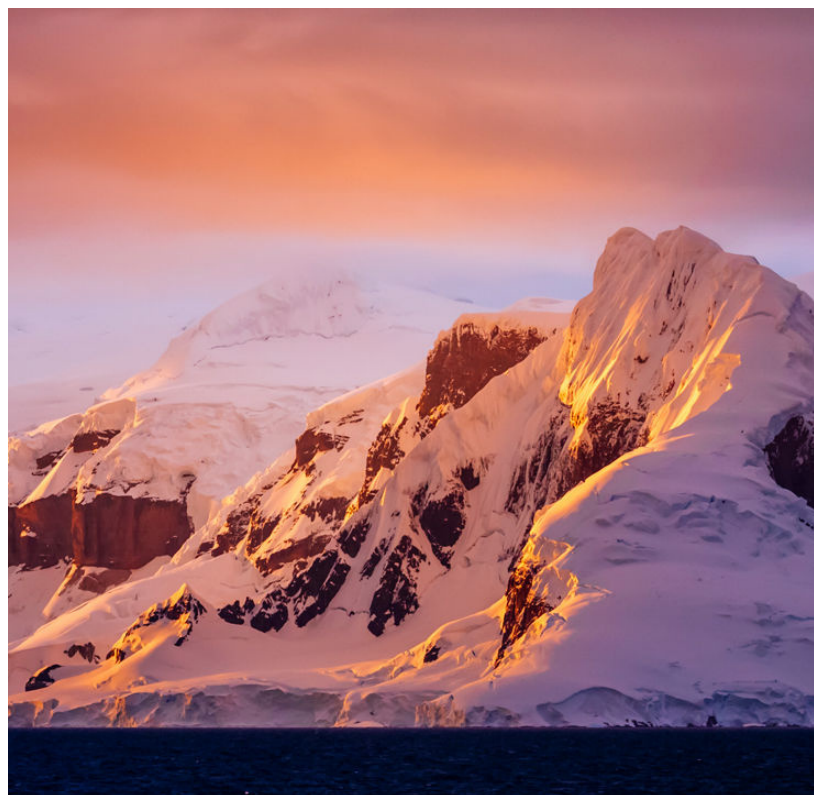
Contact club treasurer Janet Wheeler: ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com or
send to:

Withlacoochee Rockhounds
PO Box 5634 Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

Substance found in Antarctic ice may solve a Martian mystery

But, can we cab it???

Researchers have discovered a common martian mineral deep within an ice core from Antarctica. The find suggests the mineral—a brittle, yellow-brown substance known as *jarosite*—was forged the same way on both Earth and Mars: from dust trapped within ancient ice deposits. It also reveals how important these glaciers were on the Red Planet: Not only did they carve valleys, the researchers say, but they also helped create the very stuff Mars is made of.



Jarosite was first spotted on Mars in 2004, when the NASA Opportunity rover rolled over fine-grained layers of it. The discovery made headlines because jarosite needs water to form, along with iron, sulfate, potassium, and acidic conditions. These requirements aren't easily satisfied on Mars, and scientists began to theorize how the mineral could have become so abundant.

Some thought it may have been left behind by the evaporation of small amounts of salty, acidic water. But the alkaline basalt rocks in Mars's crust would have neutralized the acidic moisture, says Giovanni Baccolo, a geologist at the University of Milan-Bicocca and lead author on the new study.

This is an excerpted portion of the article.

[Read the entire article here at ScienceMag.Org](https://www.sciencemag.org)

He says jarosite shows how glaciers weren't just land carving machines, but might have contributed to Mars's chemical makeup. "This is just the first step in linking deep Antarctic ice with the martian environment."

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Membership Form 2021

Annual Dues: New individual member, \$25.00. Under 18 years of age, \$5.00. No charge for paid 2020 members who are renewing for 2021. Returning members from 2019, \$20.00 (\$5.00 discount) for 2021 membership

☐

Check if returning member

☐

Check if current member
with change of information

☐

Check if new member

☐

Check if under 18

Please Print Clearly

Last name

First Name

Street Address:

City

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You may now fill in the fields on this form if you are viewing it on your computer or tablet.
Each field may be clicked on and then you may type in your information.
You will still need to print out the form, but your added information should show on the

Give this completed form along with your check for dues made out to "Withlacoochee Rockhounds" to club secretary Janet Wheeler at a club meeting. Or mail the form and your check to:

**Withlacoochee Rockhounds
PO Box 5634
Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634**

Renewing 2020 members : No charge for 2021 membership. Please fill out form and give it to club secretary Janet Wheeler or send it to the above address.

2021

Mark Moore made a motion to accept the minutes of our March meeting as printed in the newsletter, Roberta Oldread seconded. Passed.

Treasurer Janet Wheeler gave the Treasurer's report.

Roberta Oldread made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as subject to audit, seconded by Mark Moore, approved.

President Judith Birx had distributed the meeting agenda via Email.

Old Business

Mark Moore made a motion to have the club pay \$150 for a 1 year subscription to ZOOM so the Board can conduct their meetings over the Internet without interruptions. Seconded by Ralph Barber. Passed.

Ralph Barber has not contacted the Veteran's Park to finalize our Gem Show dates. He said he will contact Trish this week and get back to the Board.

President Birx stated that the monthly meeting scheduled for January 31 st at 1pm is still on. She also said she, Roberta Oldread and Melodye Steverson were on hand at the canceled meeting time on January 23 to greet anyone who showed up. Several people did come and were greeted and asked to come back the next weekend.

President Birx brought up the question of whether our club should go back to our regular meeting schedule for the March meeting. Motion was made by Mark Moore to resume our regular meeting time for our monthly meetings, starting in March providing that all CDC guidelines will be strictly followed.

CDC guidelines include masks covering the mouth and nose at all times; social distancing of six feet; use of hand sanitizer; staying at home if you are feeling unwell. This was seconded by Roberta Oldread, and unanimously passed by the Board.

Secretary Steverson stated that she received 19 email votes for the 2021 election.

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Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Our monthly club meeting is held at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Club, 3357 Susan Dr., Spring Hill, FL 34606, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM

www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

The cost for non-club members to advertise their businesses in Rock Talk is \$10.00 per month. Contact Michael Steverson to set up an ad in both the newsletter and the club website. It will benefit both your business and our club.

Advertisers Needed

Please help us find advertisers for the Rock Talk and our website. The club can use the monthly income. Both the Rock Talk and our website have more exposure than only club members

Contact club treasure Janet Wheeler: ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com or send to: Withlacoochee Rockhounds PO Box 5634 Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Purpose

We are a non-profit organization whose purpose is to foster interest and promote knowledge of minerals, gems, fossils, lapidary arts, and earth sciences, through regular meetings, informative programs, workshops, and field trips. PLUS our annual gem and mineral and jewelry show. Membership is open to anyone sharing such interests.

Dues

Dues are \$20.00 annually for adults and no cost for children under 18 years of age.

Club Meeting Location and Time

Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center, 3357 Susan Drive in Spring Hill. The meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM.

2020 Club Officers and Appointees

President.....	Judith Birx.....	352-587-1702.....	judithbirx@hotmail.com
Vice President.....	Mark Moore.....	352-586-9607.....	markies@bellsouth.net
Secretary.....	Melodye Steverson.....	352-683-9496.....	melodye@designsbymelodye.com
Treasurer.....	Janet Wheeler.....	727-938-3644.....	ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com
Rock Talk Editor.....	Michael Steverson.....	407-376-5570.....	highlander56@gmail.com
Club Web Master.....	Michael Steverson.....	407-376-5570.....	highlander56@gmail.com
Mailing Reporter.....	Janet Wheeler.....	727-938-3644.....	ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com
Gem Bag Coordinator.....	Gloria DuPont.....	352-848-5199.....	ddupont@tampabay.rr.com
Audio/Visual Coordinator.....	Michael Steverson.....	407-376-5570.....	highlander56@gmail.com

Board of Directors

Ralph Barber (past president)
Judith Birx (president)
Mark Moore (vice president)
Roberta Oldread (2020)
Melodye Steverson (secretary)

Ginny Steverson (2021)
Michael Steverson (2021 appointed)
Lynn Walters (2021)
Janet Wheeler (treasurer)

New Business

The Board discussed procuring a debit card for club purchases.

Mark Moore made a motion to have Janet Wheeler, Treasurer, get a debit card linked to the club's bank account.

All expenditures will be cleared through the treasurer.

Roberta Oldread seconded. Passed by the Board.

The decision whether to hold the March jewelry class will be tabled until the next Board meeting.

President Birx brought up the idea to campaign for donations for the club this year. VP Mark Moore, who has done this in the past, stated that grants are very difficult to procure at this time.

This discussion

has been tabled until a future meeting.

Michael Steverson has updated our dealer forms for the Gem Show.

He has also begun to update our website and our newsletter.

He has set up our club information on "Google My Business", where anyone can search for lapidary/mineral clubs in Florida and ours would come up on their search engine.

Michael has also set up a phone number for our club through "Google Phone", which we can use on our website, cards, and Facebook pages for non-members to contact us.

It will go straight to a voice-mail, and will be checked daily.

All of these services Michael has set up are free.

Roberta Oldread reported that she is setting up a mini field trip for March.

More information to come.

The Board has decided to update our logo and will have a contest for the new mascot.

Mark Moore made a motion to have a contest to redesign a new logo for our club.

Seconded by Ralph Barber. Passed.

The new logo will be used to create new business cards for club members to hand out to interested people to encourage them to come to our club, as well as new flyers, patches and t-shirts.

VP Mark Moore then discussed programs that he has ready to present during monthly meetings.

For March, he will give a program on Amber. In the following months this year, he will give presentations on Anhydros, radioactive rocks, fossil jackets and how to open them, Spinosaurus, and "Big Jaw".

Mark will also be presenting a program on disaster preparedness (and what to put in your grab bag).

The Board decided to ask all members for their ideas for programs to be presented this year.

Our next Board meeting will be on 2/16 at 6:30pm, on ZOOM.

The meeting ended at 7:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary, Melodye Steverson

Our club is being updated and getting better every day, so it's about time we updated our logo / mascot.

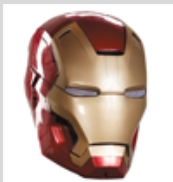
If you have any ideas for a new one, please let it be known. Draw it out, or get with someone who can draw it for you, and bring it to our meeting. If you can't make a meeting, let a Board member know and we'll pick it up from you to add to the entries.

There isn't a deadline right now, but we need a new illustration representing our club as soon as possible.

The "artist" selected will be presented with a very special collectible rock!

Our Board would like our members to come up with suggestions for Programs to be presented at our monthly meetings. What would you like to see? What would you like to learn? What would you like to know? Is there something you'd like to teach or present? You can help our club expand it's educational repertoire. We'd love to hear from you all.

Contact any Board member or bring your written suggestions to a meeting.



From The Editor

Hello to all Withlacoochee Rockhounds

It is I, your friendly neighborhood editor again.

As you may have see, I have updated the newsletter again.

Over the next few issues, I will continue to make changes to freshen the newsletter and make it a publication we are proud to call our own.

If you would like to place a business card ad in the newsletter, please feel free to contact me, and we'll get you added to next available issue.

Please note, I had not received Bench Tips by the time I had to "go to press", so it will be absent on this month's issue. It should return next issue.

Additionally, if any of you have not received your newsletter or are not receiving my e-mail blasts (meetings, rock sales, etc.), please check your spam folder. If you still are not receiving them, please contact me and let's make sure I have your correct e-mail address.

As noted in the Board of Director's meeting minutes, I have created for the club a Google My Business account. Doing this, when someone searches for "lapidary clubs near me", or "rockhounds near me", we will come up in their search. Additionally, with this now setup, if you would, please search for "Withlacoochee Rockhounds", and when you see our listing to the right side of the page in Google, please use the "Write a Review" link and give the club a good review. It helps with search engine results. Which means more people find us, and we hopefully acquire new members. It's a win-win!

Also, we now have a Google Phone number. It will ring to a voicemail, and selected club members will respond to the voicemails. This is another way for people to find out about us. That phone number is 352.587.2714. I will have it on the website and other areas soon.

More to come!

Rock on!!!

Warning to Withlacoochee Rockhound Members

During the last several months, illicit requests have been sent to members of various clubs in the US, including the Withlacoochee Rockhounds, asking members to purchase gift cards that would be used as donations to various organizations.

These are SCAMS.

Be advised that our club has never and will never ask members to buy gift cards or provide any form of monetary funds to anyone or any organization by phone call, email, or any other method of communication.